



# Tackling the Wildfire Crisis

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Congressman Neguse (CO-02) is introducing a package of bills in the 118th Congress to support communities at risk for and affected by wildfires: the Wildfire Smoke Relief Act; Wildfire Recovery Act; and Western Wildfire Support Act.

## **The Wildfire Recovery Act will:**

- Increase flexibility in the federal cost share for reimbursements for fire suppression costs through Fire Management Assistance Grants (FMAG) by establishing in statute that the federal cost share shall be no less than 75% for FMAGs
- Require FEMA to undertake a rulemaking to determine when they may recommend the federal cost share to be raised above 75%, taking into account the financial impacts to States and local governments

The bill is co-led by Representative John Curtis (R-UT), and companion legislation was introduced by Senator Alex Padilla (D-CA) in the 117th Congress. Learn more [HERE](#).

Original cosponsors include Representatives Lynch (D-MA), LaMalfa (R-CA), Cleaver (D-MO), Swalwell (D-CA), Garamendi (D-CA), Carbajal (D-CA), Stansbury (D-NM), Stanton (D-AZ), Holmes Norton (D-DC), Schrier (D-WA), Strickland, (D-WA) DeSaulnier (D-CA), Leger Fernandez (D-NM), B. Lee (D-CA), Jayapal (D-WA), Huffman (D-CA), Gallego (D-AZ), and Blumenauer (D-OR). It is endorsed by the International Association of Fire Chiefs.

## **The Wildfire Smoke Relief Act will:**

- Protect individuals with pre-existing respiratory issues or those at the highest risk of related illness from the health effects of poor air quality from wildfire smoke
- Authorize FEMA to provide low-cost home improvements and smoke-inhalation prevention equipment

The bill is cosponsored by Representatives Stansbury (D-NM), Blumenauer (D-OR), and Matsui (D-CA), and was introduced by Senators Ron Wyden (D-OR) and Jeff Merkley (D-OR) in the 117th Congress, read [here](#).

## **The Western Wildfire Support Act will:**

- Advance wildfire priorities recommended by Colorado wildfire officials and stakeholders by providing training, equipment, and funding for communities in Colorado and across the western U.S. to combat the increasing dangers posed by wild and rangeland fires
- Prepare the western U.S. for wildfires by directing the Department of the Interior (DOI) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to create fire management plans, in

addition to providing funding to acquire aircraft for wildfire operations and for communities and businesses to increase their defensible space and launch community cleanup efforts

- Suppress wildfires by directing the DOI and USDA to expedite the placement of wildfire detection equipment in at-risk areas, establishing a grant program to help agencies acquire firefighting equipment, providing funding to research and develop the use of FAA-approved drones to fight wildfires, and stopping observers with unauthorized drones from interfering with fire-fighting efforts
- Recover affected wildfire areas by authorizing FEMA to create online resource guides for communities and individuals, providing \$100 million in funding for long-term rehabilitation projects, and establishing a competition to combat the spread of wildfire-related invasive species and help preserve the pre-fire natural landscape

The bill is cosponsored by Representatives Schiff (D-CA), Panetta (D-CA), Horsford (D-NV), and Matsui (D-CA), and was introduced by Senator Catherine Cortez-Masto (D-NV) in the 117th Congress.